

# Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 33

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

August 19, 2005

## Ceremony honors 18 Senior NCOs

1st Lt. Sheila Johnston  
Public Affairs

Eighteen Laughlin non-commissioned officers were inducted into the senior NCO ranks Wednesday during a ceremony held at Club XL.

Two who already assumed the rank were Master Sergeants:

- Alfred Jones, 47th Mission Support Squadron; and
- David Lewis, 47th Security Forces Squadron;

Other inductees were Tech. Sergeants:

- Robert Hicks, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron;
- Paul Gentile and Rance G. Lane, both of the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron;
- Vincent Goins, 47th Flying Training Wing;
- Willard Brown, 47th Security Forces Squadron;
- James Leavitt, Jr., 47th Mission Support Group;
- David Drotts, Glenn Houtchens, Lavalle Jenkins and Thurman Rials, all of the 47th Mission Support Squadron;
- Luis Sanchez, 47th Operations Group;



Photo by 1st Lt. Sheila Johnston

**Eighteen XLers accept their charge and responsibility as new senior non-commissioned officers during an induction ceremony Wednesday held at Club XL. To mark the occasion, retired Chief Master Sgt. Edna L. Tart, former 37th Training Wing command chief from Lackland Air Force Base, spoke about responsibilities of leadership and management.**

■ Patricia Fisher, Kevin Holmes, Pope Johnson and Shane MacPhearson, all of the 47th Operations Support Squadron; and

■ Cassandra Smith, 87th Flying Training Squadron.

See 'Ceremony,' page 5

## BRAC focuses on right-sizing total force

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- The co-chairman of the Air Force's base closure executive group recently discussed the views the Air Force took when considering the Base Realignment and Closure recommendations.

"We have to base our future Air Force on a smaller but more capable force, and organize that force in the most effective way," said Maj. Gen. Gary W. Heckman, assistant deputy chief of Air Force Plans and Programs. "If all the BRAC recommen-

dations are approved, the big thing we accomplish is we get the right force structure, the right sizes for effectiveness, at the best combination of bases."

Three aspects of transformation influence BRAC as well as other endeavors such as the Quadrennial Defense Review.

"There are technological changes, organizational changes and changes in concepts of operations," he said. Considering these changes "we find that when we reset the force to optimum sizes, it not only creates efficiencies, but it also makes our im-

proved technologies and (concept of operations) more effective.

Previous BRACs have tended to focus on active infrastructure," he said. "Over the first four rounds of BRAC, we closed 25 active-duty bases, three Reserve bases and one Guard installation."

How does the Air Force reset the force? For fighter aircraft, General Heckman said 24 aircraft has been found to be the optimum number in a squadron.

See 'BRAC,' page 4

## Newslines

### 47th MDG closes for commander's call

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for commander's call from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 7. During this time, all clinics, radiology, laboratory and the pharmacy will be closed. The Tricare service center will be open for routine business. For medical emergencies, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center emergency room. For other care, call the primary care manager on call at (830) 703-6199.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hernandez at 298-6309.

### Thrift Shop re-opens

The Thrift Shop is now open for business in Building 358 (the old gym), at the corner of Mitchell and Sixth streets.

The Thrift Shop opens on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments are accepted from 9 a.m. to noon; donations can be dropped off anytime during business hours. For more information, call 298-5592.

### Deployment stats

Deployed:	62
Returning in 30 days:	31
Deploying in 30 days:	8

### Mission capable rate (As of Tuesday)

T-1, 91.3%	T-6, 91.6%
T-38C, 76.7%	

## Alcohol-related incidents

January to August 2004 13

Jan. 1 to August 16, 2005 18

Days since last incident 6

## History: lived through change



### Commander's Corner

**By Todd Schroeder**  
47th Flying Training Wing  
historian

For more than 40 years here, students have trained in the T-38A. Aug. 12 when Specialized undergraduate Pilot Training class 05-13 graduated, the wing's transition to the T-38C Talon was nearly complete.

Air Education and Training Command modified the venerable Talon with two major upgrades carried out in distinct phases to better prepare students and increase reliability.

But that required change, a word we're typically all uncomfortable with.

To implement this transition, personnel from a variety of disciplines created a plan to ensure the conversion went smoothly. However, just a few months before the T-38C's scheduled arrival, AETC stated both modifications would occur at the same time, citing risk mitigation as the primary reason for the concurrent upgrades. Those involved forged ahead using principles and steps we can all apply when facing change.

First, they re-evaluated how this would affect aircraft delivery schedules. Wing members discovered the numbers decreased during the first several months. To some extent, this impacted maintenance, student training, instructor pilot transition and simulator exchange timelines. In turn, these impacted other areas such as building modification schedules and communication requirements.

With lessons learned from the wing's earlier T-6A Texan conversion, members knew the original plan would place both short- and long-term stress on aircraft maintenance. The training load would demand the use of virtually every T-38C on a daily basis; and ultimately, without enough aircraft to fly, training would fall behind.

Leaders elected to adapt and improvise. Instead of placing all classes from 05-10 forward in the T-38C, they decided to place two additional classes, 05-12 and 05-13, in the T-38A. This reduced the likelihood of a training timeline slippage.

Maintenance also worked with AETC to flow aircraft from one modification line directly to the other which meant maintainers would spend less time doing transfer inspections and could concentrate more on day-to-day activities.

The whole process also required a look down the road.

Graduates on the fighter track attended an interim course before they trained in their operational aircraft, but they faced delays of almost six months before they left Laughlin. Since students who trained in the A-model would remain after the T-38A departed, wing leadership gained permission to allow these students, with an instructor pilot on board, to fly the T-38C to maintain proficiency.

All involved saw the new transition timetable to be workable, and they sat down to determine what could be done to minimize the impacts. Instead of forcing their own objectives, they worked for the common good of the team.

Sometimes the actions they took weren't the easy ones, and in that there's a lesson here for all of us.

We all have plans and undergo change. Just like anywhere else, things rarely go according to schedule. So we step back and reevaluate to see what may need to change and be sure to look at the peripheries. We draw upon lessons, whether ours or from others. We adapt to the situation and improvise how we'll forge ahead.

We must be sure to look down the road to see how what's happening now may impact our life later on. And when someone else may be affected, we need to be sure to include them.

## Suicide video hits home for SNCO

**By Senior Master Sgt. James Jarvis**  
436th Training Squadron

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Over my 19 years of military service, I have continually been briefed about the importance of identifying and assisting my fellow Airmen who portray the classic signs of suicide.

However, it was during the making of an Air Combat Command video that the message

finally became clear to me, as I now realize that this problem is bigger than I had previously imagined.

Since the inception of "ACC Off-Duty Survivor Stories: Suicide Choices; Terminal Consequences" video, I've had several coworkers, friends and even family members speak to me about their experiences and thoughts about this brutal subject.

I always believed this was a problem that only touched

people whom I didn't really know, but now I realize differently.

In fact, I've had three coworkers and friends disclose how they had all lost siblings to this tragic and senseless act in the past few months, and it made me realize how close this problem really does hit home.

As I listened to each of them speak, I couldn't help but reflect

See 'Suicide,' page 3

### Border Eagle

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#### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

#### Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.



Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

*“Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America’s wars.”*

– 47th Flying  
Training Wing  
mission statement

A place to call home -- defining your roots

By Lt. Col. Tim Cothrel  
5th Bomb Wing legal office

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. -- “There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.” -- Hodding Carter, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

My parents are in the process of moving. That is not exactly earth-shaking news for most middle-aged American men, but this is the first time my parents have moved since 1968. Lyndon Johnson was president when they moved into their current house. Men had not yet landed on the moon. The Beatles were alive, well and still together.

My parents didn’t move much before 1968, either. In fact, they are moving into what will be only the fourth home they have shared in the 48 years they have been married. In contrast, my wife and I have been married for only six years, and we are already living in home number four.

Why such a difference? Part of it is the changes in American society in general over the past several decades. In agricultural communities, families were tied to

the land, and so they stayed in one area generation after generation. As the country became more and more industrialized, we became more and more mobile. Now that we are a post-industrial nation, whatever that means, we have to be poised to move at a moment’s notice.

To me, home is, more than anything, about the feeling of belonging somewhere. The word itself creates an instant sense of comfort, familiarity and security. The house my parents are finally leaving remains my home. I lived there from first grade until I left for college. I’ve been back since, for dozens of holidays, vacations and visits. I feel like I could drive there without a map from any point on the continent, guided by sheer instinct. In my heart’s eye, no matter where I am stationed, and no matter how plush my parent’s new condo turns out to be, that old brick house will always be what I picture when I hear the word “home.”

The Air Force can’t give us a life like my parents. To paraphrase Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., as Airmen, we fight where we are told (and win where we fight). The constantly changing needs of the

mission and the system of professional development don’t permit us to grow such roots. Instead, we get wings. Wings make us agile, versatile and flexible to do what must be done where it must be done. Wings keep us moving not only from base to base and house to house, but onward, upward and forward in our growth and our performance as individuals and as teams.

But in spite of this necessity for regular changes in our jobs, locations, co-workers, etc., the Air Force still manages to give us roots of another kind. We share history, customs, traditions, experiences and above all, purpose. These are the roots that give us our identity and form the ties that bind us to each other, to the past and to the future. They create a neighborhood that has no geographical boundaries but is still as real as any village or parish or city.

We are not just working for the Air Force. We are members of the Air Force. We belong to it, and it belongs to us, just like any family or community. No matter where in the world we go, no matter what mission we perform, every time we suit up, we come home.

Suicide, from page 2

back at my own attitude about this subject when I was a young Airman.

Embarrassingly enough, I actually believed all the hype surrounding the mental health clinic during that time in my career and thought I would be ruining someone else’s career if I ever actually contacted those professionals on their behalf.

In fact, one night nearly 14 years ago, a friend of mine did cry out for help, and because of my ignorance and the false stigma attached to the mental health clinic, I’m ashamed to admit I really wasn’t a good “wingman” for him.

Although I did make an initial call, I didn’t feel right, and I wouldn’t give up his name -- even through the persistent

pleadings of the mental health professional on the other end of the line. I did, however, stay with my friend for several hours after he showed me his new handgun and spoke about his desperate despair of how he was going to shoot himself with his pending terminal breakup with his wife.

Although I still feel guilty today for not really fulfilling my duty as a good wingman, luckily, he didn’t actually go through with his desperate plan. Had he done so, I couldn’t imagine the enormous burden and grief I would still carry with me today. In fact, given the opportunity to do it over again, I would definitely act differently as I now realize the professionals at Life Skills really do care about people and are an excellent resource for those in need.

My hope is that people will have an emotional experience when they watch our new ACC video production and carefully evaluate their own actions in the event they ever need to reach out and help one of their co-workers or friends.

As the name of the production implies, suicide is really a poor choice, and if made, will only result in a senseless terminal consequence for someone who really just needed a little assistance at the time.

The “ACC Off-Duty Survivor Stories: Suicide Choices; Terminal Consequences” is available at <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil/davis/>. Enter “ACC Off Duty Survivor Stories” in the search engine.

I encourage everyone to watch it and help the Air Force address this devastating problem.

BRAC, from page 1

“We know historically, and from senior military judgment, that’s a really optimum fighting size,” General Heckman said. “We’ve had that re-enforced by some Air Force studies and analyses over the last few years, and have a 1996 (General Accounting Office) report that comes to the same conclusion.”

Through force reductions the Air Force has made the effort to maintain the balance of the force and optimize the resources in the flying community.

“Over the last 15 years the force structure in the Air Force has gone down quite a bit — a third or more,” he said. “As we have done that within the active force, we have taken the number of effectively sized squadrons and we’ve reduced the number. At the

request of the Guard, what we have been doing in the Guard force is keeping the number of squadrons; slicing them down to the point that the average fighter squadron now in the Guard is 15.”

Squadron size in the Guard became a focal point in commission review of the Air Force BRAC recommendations.

As we go from today, with a reduced force structure, into a future where we expect the fighter force structure to go down another 20 percent, we just can’t afford that kind of inefficiency,” the general said. “So what we need to do within the BRAC is to right-size these forces and then put them at the right combination of bases.”

The original thought was to close Guard bases that would lose their flying missions; however, the impor-

tance of the expeditionary combat support people at these installations changed their thinking, he said.

“These enclaves often deploy independently of the flying unit that happens to be (at that installation),” he said. “They’re part of the starting rotation for our expeditionary force, and, importantly, these forces have important state uses for the governors as well.”

”So we were convinced in our deliberations that it made more military value sense to leave those expeditionary combat forces in the states where they were, and we’d just shrink the footprint of the installation,” the general said. “So we keep the expeditionary support, we right-size the units, and we’re also able to turn back the excess infrastructure for local use.”

BRAC commissioners are currently reviewing recommendations

provided by the Air Force. After an initial cost, the Air Force expects to save about \$14 billion over the next 20 years.

f the current BRAC recommendations are approved, the initial investment to move and train all the people and build new infrastructure amounts to \$1.8 billion over six years, General Heckman said.

Two components calculate the return on investment — actual cost savings and manpower savings.

“For BRAC purposes, according to the Department of Defense, these are considered BRAC savings,” he said. “It means the dollars you save can be used for other dollar requirements. The manpower savings can be used for either other manpower requirements, which is our intent in the Guard and Reserve, or down the road for cashing in.”

5X7  
Armed Forces

Ceremony, from page 1

To mark the occasion, re-  
tired Chief Master Sgt. Edna  
Tart, former 37th Training  
Wing command chief from  
Lackland Air Force Base,  
spoke about responsibilities  
of leadership and manage-  
ment.

“As a technical sergeant,  
you are a technician... when  
you put on that master ser-  
geant rank, you are now part  
of leadership. This doesn’t  
mean you have to slow down,  
but never forget where you  
came from.” she said.

The honorees were glow-  
ing, literally, during the  
candle-lighting portion of the  
ceremony. One member of  
each enlisted rank repre-  
sented milestones each hon-  
oree had passed. This not  
only served to highlight the  
past, but it honored future  
milestones.

The evening concluded  
with inductees leading the  
mass in singing the Air Force  
song as honorees prepared  
themselves to step into their  
new roles.

Chief Tart also reminded  
the new senior NCOs that it  
is now their job to take care  
of subordinates.

“First sergeants can’t do  
it by themselves. You need to  
take care of those young Air-  
men ... It’s now your respon-  
sibility,” she said. “Become  
that good leader and manager  
you have earned to be.”

4X11  
Ricks

1X3

1X3  
Embryy  
Riddle

# Congressman visits, takes a tour of Laughlin

By Kathy White  
Public Affairs

Congressman Henry Bonilla (R-Texas) visited Laughlin Air Force Base Tuesday. Wing commander, Col. Tod Wolters, took the congressman on a driving tour past many of Laughlin's new facilities. Bonilla was the driving force in Congress behind the new construction here.

At a press conference which followed a tour of the fitness and health and wellness centers, Bonilla praised the Air Force.

"I'm so proud of the U.S. Air Force," he said. "I feel we need to provide all the support we possibly can to thank them (Airmen) for the work they do. I speak for all Americans when I say we look at them with pride."

Bonilla talked about his work to improve the base. He said over his

12 years as the representative for this area, he has talked to many wing commanders. "I've always told them, 'You tell me what you need, and I will make every effort to make this the best pilot training base in the world,'" he said.

Bonilla fought to include a main gate realignment in a recently passed multi-year transportation bill. The new road will allow workers and visitors to bypass the railroad tracks.

Del Rio mayor Dora Alcala praised the Congressman for his work to get the major new road program underway. "It's for the safety and security of our base and our community," she said.

Bonilla closed the press conference by thanking veterans for their service to the nation and Laughlin's employees for the work they do every day.



Photo by 1st Lt. Sheila Johnston

During a visit to Laughlin Tuesday, Congressman Henry Bonilla, accompanied by Border Patrol Chief Paul Berg (far left), Mayor Dora Alcala of Del Rio and Col. Tod Wolters (far right), 47th Flying Training Wing commander, gets a tour of the fitness center.

## Civilian personnel flight offers supervisory NSPS training

### Compiled from staff reports

The Civilian Personnel Flight will be sponsoring a supervisory skills training which is scheduled for September. This training will focus on supervisory communication and negotiation skills that are offered to select senior leaders, but this is the first opportunity for all supervisors of civilian employees. This training is open to both civilian and military supervisors of civilian employees.

Have you been in a situation as a manager or supervisor and you needed to provide feedback to an employee? Instead of having the discussion, you completely sidestepped the issue, or when the discussion actually took place the message was so mixed you walked away wondering if the employee "got the point."

To be a successful supervisor of civilian employees in today's Air Force, as well as under the new National Security Personnel System, supervisors need to be skilled and

flexible in the way they communicate and provide feedback to their employees.

According to local civilian personnel officials, the Air Force is providing supervisors with invaluable training to equip them to succeed under the new personnel system. The first training begins Sept. 6 with a course entitled "Managing Difficult Conversations." The training will be conducted between 6 and 15 September at the base education center.

This course was developed by the Office of the General Counsel, Dispute Resolution Division, in close coordination with the Air Force NSPS Program Office. Participants will gain a new tool to enhance their negotiation skills and the confidence they need to have difficult workplace conversations.

"This course represents a tremendous training opportunity for Air Force supervisors," said Deborah Breining, Laughlin's civilian personnel officer. "Supervisors will be scheduled through their organizational training monitor for this full-day class."

While this training does not provide specifics on how to implement NSPS or other transformation efforts underway, it was synchronized with Air Force and Department of Defense professional development requirements to provide both a unique and valuable training opportunity.

"We believe this is one of

the best professional development courses available today and a great way for the Air Force to kick off its NSPS training efforts," Ms. Breining said. "This training was developed by an award-winning team and has received outstanding ratings from more than 400 Air Force supervisors who have taken the course to

date."

This training is a mandatory for all supervisors (military and civilian) of GS employees participating in the first spiral of NSPS implementation.

For questions or more details, call the Civilian Personnel Flight at 298-5806 or email [laughlinstaffing@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:laughlinstaffing@laughlin.af.mil).

## Safety essential near firing range

The 47th Security Forces Squadron reminds everyone that the small-arms firing range is off limits to unauthorized personnel and should be considered dangerous at all times.

The range is located on the south end of Fourth Street, approximately 200 meters from the perimeter fence. It is routinely used to conduct live-fire

weapons training.

Trespassing in the range area is not only illegal, but can be extremely hazardous during firing.

A red streamer placed at both approach roads to the firing range provides a safety warning of the range's presence and as a reminder to approach with caution.

When the range is in operation a red beacon and a large red flag will

be displayed. If anyone notices the flag or beacon, call the range at 298-4469 before approaching.

Anyone needing access to the firing-range area during duty hours must call the 47th SFS combat arms section at 298-5151 or the range at 298-4469.

During non-duty hours call the law enforcement-desk at 298-5100.

The Summer 2005 issue of Airman is now available on line. Log onto <http://www.af.mil/news/airman/> for your quarterly desktop edition.

3X3 Calderon Electronics

2X5  
Upstagers

3X7  
Armed ZForces

2X5  
Ciropractic Clinic

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4X10.5

LACKS

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members... It's for  
everyone.**

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details, call 298-6433.

1X3

1X3

Cinema



4X10

Armed Forces

### 47th MDG moves

The 47th Medical Group will have limited clinic hours today to facilitate the move into recently remodeled clinical areas.

The clinic will be open from 7 to 10 a.m. and will be closed the remainder of the day.

The Flight Medicine Clinic will be open for “Return to Fly Status” and “Sick Calls” from 7 to 10 a.m., and there will be a “Return to Fly Clinic” in Anderson Hall, Classroom B from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The Family Practice and Pediatric clinics will be open from 7 to 10 a.m. for acute appointments and will be closed the remainder of the day.

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Force?



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Air Force  
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at  
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1X2

1X2 Animal  
House

## XLER



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

**Staff. Sgt. Cassie Bone**  
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron,  
NCO in-charge flight medicine

**Hometown:** My hometown is Connifer, Colo.

**Family:** Beloved husband, Robert, and wonderful daughter, Bridget

**Time at Laughlin:** 2 years

**Time in service:** Seven and a half years

**Greatest accomplishments:** Having my wonderful family

**Hobbies:** Being with my family

**Bad habit:** Procrastinating

**Favorite movie:** "The Princess Bride"

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My grandfather – He was so positive

and loving in nature. He taught me the value of a human life and to take every moment and savor it as if it were your first.

“Staff Sgt. Cassie Bone is a superior medical technician and patient advocate. The installation’s flying mission is positively affected with each day she is on duty and with every patient she encounters.”

–Tech. Sgt. Jason Hamelback,  
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

## U.S., Russia strengthening ties through Moscow air show

**By Master Sgt. Mona Ferrell**  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe  
public affairs

ZHUKOVSKY, Russia -- When it comes to forging bonds and strengthening relationships, it seems that the U.S. and Russia have gotten the hang of it.

About 100 U.S. servicemembers and eight U.S. aircraft are playing an active part in the Moscow International Aviation and Space Salon from Tuesday to Sunday at Ramenskoye Airfield. If the reaction from Sofia Saakyants is any indication, the American presence at the show is being well received.

“I like the American aircraft and the people -- (them being) here is wonderful,” said Ms. Saakyants, a member of the Russian Emercom Ministry of Emergency Response. “It’s very important (they’re) here. Ever since the Cold War ended and our two countries have been talking ... it’s much better. I think it’s important that we be friends.”

That is exactly why Americans are here, said Robert Moore, U.S. European Command deputy director of logistics and security assistance.

“Our being here is extremely significant,” Mr. Moore said. “It enhances the

military-to-military relationships between our two countries, and it supports U.S. security cooperation policies with Russia.

“To see our men and women in uniform interacting, smiling and shaking hands with our Russian partners is inspirational,” he said.

That sentiment is shared by Americans and Russians alike.

“We’re glad that there’s a cooperation of our different nations,” said Russian Lt. Col. Nickolai Vorobo, speaking for himself and his nearby comrades. “This (friendship) should continue for a long time.”

The United States first displayed military aircraft at the Moscow air show in 2003, and in 2001 the Department of Defense participated with a technology booth. However, that does not mean the uniqueness to see U.S. servicemembers here has worn off.

“I like the Americans, and I especially like the berets,” said Dmitry Chenstvov, a Russian policeman. “I want to make friends with the Americans.”

Forging ties through military cooperation is what it is all about, said Tech. Sgt. Leon Limon, a KC-10 Extender air refueling specialist from Travis Air Force



Photo by Master Sgt. Mona Ferrell

**Master Sgt. Raul Garcia speaks with visitors of the Moscow International Aviation and Space Salon at Ramenskoye Airfield on Tuesday. Eight Department of Defense aircraft and about 100 servicemembers are playing an active part in the air show Tuesday to Sunday, as they allow visitors to get a close-up look at U.S. Air Force aircraft. Sergeant Garcia is a crew chief from the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.**

Base, Calif.

“Coming here is a dream come true,” said Sergeant Limon, who self-taught himself to speak Russian more than three years ago. “I have a lot of Russian and Ukrainian friends back in the United States, so to finally get to come here and see for myself what their country is like and to make even more friends -- it’s unbelievable.”

American aircraft showcased during the air show include the F-15E Strike Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, KC-10 Extender, KC-135 Stratotanker and the B-1B Lancer. The B-1B performance of daily aerial demonstrations began Thursday.

(Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)



# Maxwell teen graduates college, sisters emulate

By Jon Sladek

*Air University public affairs*

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Denver at the age of 19. Hannah Harding, daughter of Officer Training School instructor Capt. Kitchener Harding, may be wondering what took her so long.

The 17 year old officially received her Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University at Montgomery recently, making her the youngest graduate in the school's 36-year history.

While most teenagers her age are selecting universities to attend in the fall, Hannah has already selected a graduate school -- California State University-East Bay.

"I was a little tired after last semester (at AUM), but I've had such a long break I'm ready and excited to start my graduate program," she said. "Otherwise I'd get bored and play solitaire all day."

Her younger sisters, Rosannah, 15, and Serennah, 14, already follow in their big sister's footsteps attending college at young ages.

All three sisters were home-schooled by their mother. Hannah and Rosannah were eligible for college at age 13 after passing the California High School Proficiency Examination.

By the time Serennah was old enough, the family was stationed here, forcing her to take a different route.

"I had to score high enough on the



Photo by Frank C. Williams

(From left) Sisters Rosannah, 15, Hannah, 17, and Serennah Harding, 14, stand in front of the Auburn University at Montgomery campus. All three college students are daughters of Capt. Kitchener Harding, an Officer Training School instructor at nearby Maxwell Air Force Base. The oldest will begin graduate school in the fall.

SAT to be accepted at AUM," she said.

"Every once in awhile a jaw will drop," said Captain Harding, explaining his co-workers' reaction to his daughters' accomplishments. "I get a lot of questions."

One question is whether the girls are taking on too much at a young age.

"I'd rather be guilty of pushing too much than not enough," he said. "But the key is allowing them to chase their own dreams."

Each daughter has pursued her own dream, embarking on different areas of study. While Hannah will stick with mathematics in graduate school, Rosannah is majoring in agriculture at Auburn University, and Serennah is a premedical major at AUM who plans to become a pediatrician.

With a permanent change of station on the horizon, all three sisters will attend new schools in the fall, close to their new home in northern California.

Hannah will begin graduate school at CSU-EB. Rosannah will continue with agriculture at California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and Serennah will transfer her medical studies to Santa Clara University. The younger sisters expect to earn bachelor's degrees before they are old enough to vote.

According to Hannah, the sisters have not had much trouble integrating into a college atmosphere at such a young age.

"I've been able to meet a lot of friends on campus from different backgrounds and places," she said.

"We have had a really positive response," Rosannah said. "Most people are like, 'wow' and then they want to know our story."

As Hannah moves on to the next stage of her education, she still remembers how she got where she is today. She said when she was little and wanted to play, she had to do her schoolwork first.

"That was what helped us (get ahead)," she said.

Captain Harding said he feels blessed to have such overachieving children.

"It is not a matter of genetics," he said. "If you just love your children and treat them as adults, they will not just meet your expectations, but their own expectations."

(Courtesy Air Education and Training Command News Service)

## Laughlin welcomes new 84th FTS commander

Compiled from staff reports

Team XL welcomed Lt. Col. George Day as the 84th Flying Training Squadron commander at a change of command ceremony here July 29.

He succeeds Lt. Col. Kelly Fletcher.

**Hometown:** Shalima, Fla.

**Time in service:** 20 years, commissioned in 1985, U.S. Air Force Academy

**Time arrived at Laughlin:** June 16, 2005

**Previous assignments:**

■ Student, navigator training, Mather Air Force Base, Calif.

■ F-4 B Electronic Warfare Systems Officer, Clark Air Base, Philippines

■ (T-38's for F-16 track), Euro-NATO joint jet pilot training (ENJJP), Sheppard AFB, Texas

■ F-16 follow-on training, MacDill AFB, Fla.

■ F-16 instructor pilot, Spangdahlem AB, Germany

■ Chief, wing Exercise and Plans, Shaw AFB, S.C.

■ 79 FS/ADO and Wing safety chief, Incirlik AB, Turkey

■ Chief of Joint Strike Fighter Programming, programs division, Air Staff, Pentagon



**Lt. Col. George Day**

■ Wing plans, programs and inspections chief, Spangdahlem AB, Germany

**Greatest feat:** Successfully finding and marrying, my wife of nearly 20 years.

**Leadership philosophy:** Seems obvious, but "lead from the front." Also, it's your job to get to "know" your people and "take care" of them. You can't make the tough calls if you don't know your folks or make them understand the mission.

**Personal heros:** Jimmy Doolittle and George "Bud" Day (dad)

**Favorite quote:** "Success is when preparation meets opportunity." (Bobby Unser)

**Favorite movies:** Indiana Jones movies

**Hobbies:** Flying, boating, hunting, and spending time with my wife and kids

**Bad habit:** Eating junk food

**What or who has inspired you most in life and why?:**

My dad has shown me what it means to be tough and caring at the same time. He endured many trials for the good of his troops, his country and his family, and his faith in God has also inspired me.



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## CES 2 whips CES 1, wins softball championship, 8-4



Photos by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

Mario Rosas, CES 2, makes a hit during Monday's game.

(Right) The base intramural softball championship team, CES 2, poses for a photo after receiving the trophy here Monday. Team members include (front row left to right): Carlos Navarro, Jorge Arteaga, Gregorio Loyola, Gilbert Rodriguez, Mario Rosas, Robert Sabo;

(Back row): Cesar Vasquez, Ramon Deleon, Brian Scott, Oscar Salas, Javier Rosales, Stuart Parks, Rogelio Esquivel, Ramon Gonzalez, Jorge Arteaga Jr.

By Airman 1st Class  
**Olufemi Owolabi**  
Editor

The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron team 2 won the base intramural softball championship by defeating its counterpart CES team 1, 8 to 4, during a game here Monday.

Though CES 1 took the season with a record of 16-2, they were unable to carry home the championship trophy after vying against CES 2, who had a league record of 15-2.

The game started with both teams holding each other to a 2-2 tie during the first two innings.

In the third and fourth innings, CES 1 held CES 2's

backs against the wall, as they were up 4-3.

Action on the field kept fans excited while they rooted for CES 2 to come back again.

Lt. Col. Peter Bahm, 47th CES commander, was hoping for a tie.

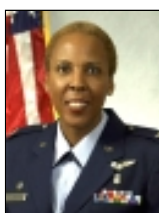
Then came the dramatic turnaround, which caught fans by surprise.

CES 2 batters went immediately to work in the fifth inning. They dashed CES 1's hope and commanded the game. They held CES 1 scoreless throughout the last two innings while their offense added five more runs, leading the game 8-4.

CES 2 won the game and the championship title.



Staff Sgt. Crystal Morris, 47th Services Division, presents the base intramural softball championship trophy to CES 2. CES 2 beats CES18-4 to win the championship.



### *What's up Doc?*

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes  
47th Medical Group commander

**Question:** I tried to make an appointment with Dr. Ho but was told she is no longer seeing patients. What happened to her and why wasn't I told that I have a new doctor I have to go to?

**Answer:** I sincerely regret that you may be experiencing distress due to an unan-

nounced change of providers.

Unfortunately, Dr. Ho had to leave unexpectedly due to medical issues, but fortunately she is doing well and is the proud new mother of a healthy baby girl.

To accommodate the unexpected shortage, we had to move our internal medicine physician, Dr. Odtohan, over to the family care clinic to take care of Dr. Ho's patients.

The good news is that the shortage is over now that we have a new family practice physician Dr. Bowden in place to assume care of those patients previously managed by Dr. Ho.

Our other family practice physician, Dr. Neumann, is still here and not scheduled to depart until next year.

Our flight medicine clinic has also experienced a new turnover of providers, and Dr. Files and Dr.

Waldroup are looking forward to meeting the aerospace medicine needs of flyers and their families.

Please keep in mind that we still have the challenge of significant changes as we move into the newly-renovated portion of the clinic this week.

I greatly appreciate your feedback and will make every effort possible to fully advertise major changes in staff as they occur.

We look forward to continuing providing the highest quality of care and meeting your medical needs.y.

Thanks for your question!

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at [laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil) if you have a What's Up Doc? question.